

## URBAN SPACE MAKER - THE TEAM

This document presents a creative and energetic team brought together to generate new ideas for how to implement the sustainability objectives for the next phase of Meridian Water:

The 'Urban Space Maker' is an international team with **Dutch – UK** knowledge, combining Dutch experience for innovative urban solutions integrated with long tradition of planning and building with water, and the UK local knowledge.

The team we have put together will inspire and stimulate through the crossover of (spatial) designers, social entrepreneurs, researchers, innovators of digital fabrication and free spirits. We have in our works and collaborations delivered significant improvements to public space and communities and we share a set of values dedicated to healthy urban development and sustainable future of cities.

The 'Urban Space Maker' is led by **OKRA**, an international award-winning landscape architecture and urbanism practice that over the last twenty-five years focused on the transformation of cities and landscapes for the people who use them. OKRA has the expertise to link sustainable strategies to on site delivery using system and integrated design approaches. They bring experience learned from Merwede, a car free masterplan incorporating innovative, mobility, waste and blue-green solutions.

The team's local partner **&\also thinktank** is architect Hawkins\Brown's in-house research consultancy, &\also is drawing together on a wealth of experience across multiple sectors and providing a forum for the creation of new knowledge. It will provide whole life carbon assessments and a framework for calculating

social value on architectural projects and its relationship of innovation and public space.

An important aspect for a successful implementation is communicating and branding the project with the community and its urban context. **Pop-Up City** is an Amsterdam-based agency working on the intersection of urban transformation and communication. Since 2008, they have been exploring trends that shape successful buildings, neighborhoods, and cities. They uniquely combine innovative urban planning with a strong expertise of storytelling and content creation.

A good base for developing an innovative interaction in projects is to combine the depth of knowledge of University with design practices. Environmental Technology group from **WUR (Wageningen University & Research)** will bring to the project its research and technological knowledge of circular urban systems, and monitoring environmental and economic viability and change.

**Studio RAP** is a unique emerging architectural company integrating the power of computational design with innovative digital fabrication methods. Their team consists of architects, roboticists, programmers and researchers. Together they explore innovative technology and try to improve the way we design, produce, manage and build architecture. Studio RAP will use digital fabrication to produce sustainable landscape and architectural elements, by locating some robots on site and upskill local people using Meridian Works as a base. This is a sustainable and unique way to build landscape and architectonic elements in Meridian Water.

# URBAN SPACE MAKER - THE IDEA

We support your aim to create an environmentally sustainable area, a benchmark for innovative 21st century city-making. Our big idea is called the Urban Space Maker – a means by which the circular economy becomes tangible, exciting and accessible to everyone. We imagine a local production line where collected waste is processed by a 3D print robot to produce new building materials for the construction of Meridian Water.

Sourcing household waste, local refuse contractors and the drainage network, raw material can be broken down, cleaned, compacted and re-moulded to provide the building blocks for landscape and public space elements, such as furniture, insect hotels, facade elements, water collecting tiles, pavilions, pop-up retail kiosks and perhaps even experimental houses. **These gems from waste can be placed in the Meridian Water district, creating an intrinsic relationship between people, production, urban space and the environment.** The structure of this local factory will itself demonstrate the potential of sustainable technology, with cross-laminated timber panels intricately cut and assembled by robots.

The Urban Space Maker is a public venue whose program and plan can adapt to the needs of the evolving community. It is a flexible pavilion that can be transformed into a waste collector and processor, city farm, makerspace or a local innovative manufacturing hub. To guarantee the continuity and impact of the Urban Space Maker, local artists would be invited to curate the venue for limited periods of time. These artists will join us in working with local people to design and manufacture their sustainable ideas, teaching skills that could work in symbiosis with your Meridian Works initiative.

This local 'factory' will produce throughout the 25 year development process of the masterplan, referring to the industrial heritage of the site in a contemporary way. Simultaneously it could be the official visitor centre for Meridian Water. A website and catalogue will tell the story of the products made from 'Meridian Material'.

## TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE APPROACH

Environmental sustainability:

Creating gems out of waste and producing low embodied carbon building products for use within the urban development is a direct application of circular design principles – consuming less, enhancing local ecologies, and fostering environmental awareness at all layers of society.

Social sustainability:

The Urban Space Maker houses cultural and sustainable programs, upskilling local inhabitants and multiplying the impact of Meridian Works. The program is not predetermined; it will be democratic and responsive to the needs of the local community.

Economic sustainability:

Jobs will be created through commercial apprenticeship programs. Local waste is collected and transformed into high-specification 3D-printed building material, adding value to local supply chains. Successful building products with scalability can be patented for wider commercial application.

**The Urban Space Maker will be a living lab which tests, embeds and showcases the circular economy within the masterplan development. It will make Meridian Water a place like no other.**

THE URBAN SPACE MAKER WILL BE A LIVING LAB WHICH TESTS, EMBEDS AND SHOWCASES THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY WITHIN THE MASTERPLAN DEVELOPMENT.



Our big idea is called the Urban Space Maker – a means by which the circular economy becomes tangible, exciting and accessible to everyone. We imagine a local production line where collected waste is processed by a 3D print robot to produce new building materials for the construction of Meridian

## CREATING GEMS OUT OF WASTE



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Image by overtrenders-w,  
Pretty Plastic Plant, producing shingles from waste plastic